

Members

Rep. Terry Goodin, Chairperson
Rep. Ronald Liggett
Rep. Dan Stevenson
Rep. Ralph Ayres
Rep. Dan Leonard
Rep. Andrew Thomas
Sen. Allen Paul, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Dennis Kruse
Sen. James Merritt
Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr
Sen. Larry Lutz
Sen. Earline Rogers



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 5, 2004
Meeting Time: 4:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Terry Goodin, Chair; Rep. Ronald Liggett; Rep. Dan Stevenson; Rep. Ralph Ayres; Rep. Dan Leonard; Rep. Andrew Thomas; Sen. Dennis Kruse; Sen. James Merritt; Sen. Larry Lutz.

Members Absent: Sen. Allen Paul, Vice-Chair; Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr; Sen. Earline Rogers.

The Chair, Representative Goodin, called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

1. H.R 75 (Antique License Plates)

The first order of business was H.R. 75 (Antique License Plates). Representative David Crooks was recognized to speak on this issue. He told the Committee that during the 2004 Session, HB 1147 was introduced to allow a plate from the model year of the vehicle to serve as the plate on the vehicle. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) expressed concern about HB 1147. The bill died in the Senate.

Representative Goodin next recognized Marilyn Cage, Legislative Liaison for the BMV. Ms. Cage provided a handout (Exhibit A) which shows historic and/or antique plates currently used by 19 states. Ms. Cage told the Committee that there is a compromise in the making between the involved groups. She said that part of the compromise would have the BMV design a license plate to support the model year plate. Ms. Cage told the Committee that the design under consideration has a "classic look", more consistent with the history of the antique vehicle.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Next to address the Committee was Mr. David Fry, a constituent of Representative Crooks as well as a vintage car owner. Mr. Fry told the Committee that it is important that an antique vehicle has a total vintage look which would include the model year license plate versus the current BMV antique license plate. As an example, Mr. Fry presented his 1957 license plate he would like to use for his 1957 Chevrolet. Representative Crooks commented that the State Police have objected to this usage because it is difficult to manage. Representative Crooks distributed a copy of State Vintage Plate Laws (Exhibit B). This exhibit details the laws for five states.

The Chair called upon Capt. Anthony Sommer, an attorney for the Indiana State Police (ISP). Capt. Sommer told the Committee that officers checking the model year license plate would not be able to "run" the license plate because the BMV does not maintain this type of information. He said that this is a security risk. Capt. Sommer told the Committee that he supports the proposed compromise. Representative Crooks said that he wanted an exception for "car cruise." Representative Goodin requested proposed language for the legislation for the final meeting.

2. S.R. 49. (Review and Examination of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles)

The Chair recognized Senator Merritt. In his comments to the Committee, Senator Merritt said that in late 2003 and early 2004, there were accusations of fraudulent behavior on the part of several individuals at the BMV. He said that Governor Kernan then had an investigation. Senator Merritt commented that he was alarmed at the findings of the report. Senator Merritt said that the report was completed by Marshall Carrington and issued on February 19, 2004. Senator Merritt told the Committee that he authored S.R. 49 to find out what measures in Carrington's report have been implemented by the BMV.

Representative Goodin called upon Marilyn Cage of the BMV to comment. Ms. Cage's comments consisted of a prepared text (Exhibit C contains her remarks). Representative Liggett asked if there are other states which divide the work between two entities such as the BMV and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commission (BMVC). Ms. Cage said that she did not know, but would attempt to find out. Representative Liggett also wanted to know about "whistle blower" protection for BMVC employees.

Senator Merritt inquired about Saturday hours and what impact, if any, it has had on BMVC morale. He also asked Marilyn Cage how the BMVC decided on Saturday hours. Ms. Cage responded by saying that the BMV and the BMVC reviewed the number of transactions at the branches. She also said that the BMVC is conducting test runs at ten license branches regarding Saturday hours. Ms. Cage said that the BMVC approved the Saturday hours. In response to a Committee question, Ms. Cage said that keeping the branches open six days per week was cost prohibitive. Senator Merritt commented that an independent performance audit is necessary. Ms. Cage told the Committee that the BMV has retained PTW, a private firm, to conduct a performance audit of the recommendations contained in Marshall Carrington's report.

Next to address the Committee was Ms. Diana Gaddis, representing the National Tenant Network. Ms. Gaddis was appearing today at the request of Senator Merritt. Ms. Gaddis told the Committee that her firm conducts criminal background checks. She said that North Carolina and New York, referred to in the Indianapolis Star, have the best and most comprehensive criminal background check systems in the nation. These states received B+ grades for their systems. She said that Indiana did not do as well. Ms. Gaddis distributed Exhibit D which provides an overview of the National Tenant Network.

Representative Goodin recognized Representative Liggett to speak. He then outlined a series of problems he sees at the BMV and the BMVC. Representative Liggett identified the following

as topics which need review:

- (1) Wage disparity, with the BMVC employees paid less than BMV employees.
- (2) Insurance disparity between BMV and BMVC employees.
- (3) Merge the BMV and the BMVC.
- (4) Provide whistle blower protection for BMVC employees.
- (5) Provide grievance procedures for BMVC employees.

Representative Liggett commented on the concerns from senior citizens regarding the use of credit cards at license branches. He said that senior citizens put "See ID" on credit cards, based on suggestions from the ISP to prevent identify theft. Representative Liggett said these credits cards are being rejected at the license branches.

Senator Merritt said that the BMV is moving along and would like to see improved security at the BMVC and a full-fledged outside report on the BMV. He said that he supports an outside evaluation.

Representative Goodin said that the Committee would have one more meeting and that any Committee members should forward proposed recommendations and language for proposed legislation to Committee staff by September 3, 2004.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.